



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/593,218	09/15/2006	Guenter Holp	5100.P0105US	7033
23474 7590 03/17/2008 FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631				
EXAMINER				
GRANT, ALVIN J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3723				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/17/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/593,218

Applicant(s)

HOLP, GUENTER

Examiner

ALVIN J. GRANT

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/15/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Christensen 3,299,496.

Referring to claims 1 and 2, Christensen discloses a tool for coupling hydraulic hoses, comprising: a tool for closing and separating pluggable quick acting closure couplings for hydraulic lines (54,56), with two engagement elements (18,32) which can be brought into engagement with in each case one coupling half (58,60) of the quick acting closure coupling, and with an actuating mechanism (20), which can be handled manually, for the plugging-in movement of the coupling halves (58,60) via a mutual relative movement of the engagement elements (18,32), the actuating mechanism (20) having a linear guide (28) which comprises two guide parts (12) which are displaceable linearly in relation to each other, and the engagement elements (18,32) protruding transversely to the guide track (at 12) on one guide part in each case to form extension arms, and the actuating mechanism (20) having a pivot lever (36) and a deflecting mechanism (at 42) for transferring the movement of the pivot lever into the linear movement of the guide parts (12), the deflecting mechanism (20) comprises a double-jointed tension lever (46) which is coupled to the pivot lever (36) and to a guide part (12) and a drag lever (at 24)

Art Unit: 3723

coupled to the pivot lever (36) at a distance from the tension lever (46), and in that the drag lever (at 24) is held via a supporting spring at a distance from the guide part (12) to be drawn up; and the coupling halves (58,60) are movable linearly along a plug-in axis running parallel to the guide track at a lateral distance between the engagement elements.

Referring to claims 3-6 and 8-13, see col. 1, line 44 – col.2, line 52; and Figs. 1-5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christensen in view of Aubriot EP 0 900 633 A1.

Christensen does not specifically disclose a screw thread located at the guide tracks.

Aubriot discloses an apparatus having a screw thread located at the guide tracks so as to secure the engagement elements at desired locations on the track. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the apparatus of Christensen to have a screw thread located at the guide tracks as taught by Aubriot so as to secure the engagement elements at desired locations on the track.

5. **Claims 14-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christensen in view of Morrison et al. 5,597,267.

Christensen is described above. Christensen does not specifically disclose an engagement element having a conically widening central opening. Morrison et al. teaches the use of conically widened central openings so as to enhance the manipulating of objects having surfaces of varying diameters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the engagement elements of Christensen to have a conically widened central opening as taught by Morrison et al. so as to enhance the manipulating of objects having surfaces of varying diameters.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALVIN J. GRANT whose telephone number is (571)272-4484. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alvin J Grant/
Examiner, Art Unit 3723